

the field than a pint or two of beer at a nearby pub with his friends. The hospitality provided by Maitland and Katie, particularly his bumpers of sherry, was legendary. Their knockabout verbal banter was a source of astonishment not to say mystification to those who had not met them before but it concealed deep affection. As his publisher, I myself enjoyed my many visits to Labrey Cottage over the years as well as his stays at our home where stimulating conversation was lubricated with generous amounts of alcohol. His capacity was truly phenomenal but his brain remained unclouded! Much work was done in the most congenial possible way. We will all miss Maitland greatly. Perhaps his epitaph should be, in the words of Virgil: *Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas* (Happy is he who has been able to understand the causes of things).

Basil Harley
19 March 2001

Juniper Carpet *Thera juniperata* (L.)(Lep.: Geometridae) in Juniper Valley, Aston Upthorpe, Oxfordshire

I am pleased to report that Ron Louch and I recorded a fully-grown caterpillar of the Juniper Carpet moth during a visit we made to Juniper Valley, Aston Upthorpe, on 7 September 2000. This is the first time that Ron and I have visited the site together since the late 1970s, when we made a number of visits at different times of the year and recorded larvae of the Juniper Carpet and other wildlife interest. It is good to be able to confirm that the species is still present in this new millennium. Ron informs me that he also noted larvae in 1998. The site is a chalk valley with many bushes of wild Juniper *Juniperus communis*. We beat just a single Juniper bush and obtained the distinctive larva, with its red side-stripes, almost immediately. The larva was filmed on video before being returned to the bush. Formerly considered Nationally Notable, the Juniper Carpet is now widely established on cultivated junipers in gardens (see Waring, 1992. On the current status of the Juniper Carpet moth *Thera juniperata*. (Lep: Geometridae). *Ent. Rec.* **104**: 143-148), but records from native Juniper sites remain valuable records of conservation interest. I believe the site was one of those monitored for juniper-dependent insects by Lena Ward (1977. The conservation of juniper: the fauna of foodplant island sites in southern England. *J. Applied Ecol.* **14**: 121-135), but am not clear how much invertebrate recording has taken place there recently. Other noteworthy records from this visit include a Clouded Yellow butterfly *Colias croceus*, in what proved to be a good season for this migrant, and a pair of Buzzards *Buteo buteo* which appeared to be resident.—
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